

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Remarks Regarding Amendments in the Claims:

Claims 1 to 29, 37 and 47, were previously cancelled. Claims 50 and 51 are cancelled with this amendment. Claims 30 to 36, 38 to 46, 48 and 49 remain pending. Of these, claims 30, 35, 36, 40, 45 and 46 are currently amended.

Claim 30 is amended to state that the U-shaped reinforcing member is capable of being over-bend mounted to the free vertical edge portion of the door without being screwed to the free vertical edge portion of the door. Claim 30 is further amended to state that the distal edge of each of the side members is located between the proximal edge of the side member and a portion of the lockset protruding through the front surface of the door. Corresponding amendments are made to claim 40.

Claims 35 is amended to delete the reference to screws. Claim 35 has been further amended to state that the U-shaped first reinforcing member is capable of being further affixed to the door since claim 30 already refers to the reinforcing member being capable of being affixed by being over-bend mounted to the door. Corresponding amendments have been made to claim 45.

Support for these amendments is found, for example, at page 2, lines 19-24; page 3, line 28 to page 4, line 3; and Figure 2.

The Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Request to Correct Inventorship

Pursuant to CFR 1.48(b), the Applicants request that James Patrick Griffin (Sr.) be deleted as an inventor of this application. Mr. Griffin (Sr.)'s invention is no longer being claimed as a result of the current claim amendments. The

processing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i) is being paid by deposit account with transmittal of this amendment.

Double Patenting and S. 112 Rejection

The Applicants submit that the S. 112 rejections were addressed with the Applicants amendment of April 13, 2007 and that the present claims are not indefinite. Claims 50 and 51 have been cancelled, which removes the double patenting rejections.

Claim Rejection – S.102(b)

Claims 50 and 51 were rejected as being anticipated by Smith. Claims 50 and 51 have been cancelled and so this rejection is no longer applicable.

Claim Rejections – S.103(a)

Claims 30 to 36, 38 to 46, 48 and 49 were rejected as being obvious over Smith and Barnes or, for claims 36, 38, 39, 46, 48 and 49, over Smith and Barnes as applied to claims 30 and 40 in view of further references. The Applicants submit that the current claims are not obvious.

Claims 30 and 40 as amended state that the distal edges of the side members of the first U-shaped reinforcing member are located between the proximal edges of the side members and a portion of the lockset passing through the front surface of the door. An example of this can be seen in Figure 2 of the application wherein the distal edges of the side members of the U-shaped reinforcing member do not extend to the key hole portion of the locking mechanism or door handle which protrude from the front of the door. In contrast, Smith describes a plate extending past the door handle and locking mechanism to strengthen the door in the vicinity of the locking mechanism. The apparatus in Barnes does not have side members. Accordingly, neither of the cited references nor any combination of them provide all of the elements of claims 30 and 40.

Claim 30 has further been revised to state that the first U-shaped reinforcing member is capable of being over-bend mounted to the free vertical edge portion of the door so that the reinforcing member engages the free vertical edge portion of the door without being screwed to the free vertical edge portion of the door. Claim 40, as amended, has similar limitations. Both of Smith and Barnes require the use of screws to hold metal plates to a door. Accordingly, the cited references, or a combination of them, do not provide all of the elements of claims 30 and 40.

For the reasons above, and for the reasons stated in previous responses, the applicants submit that claims 30 and 40 are not made obvious by Smith and Barnes. The dependant claims are similarly not made obvious by Smith and Barnes as applied to claims 30 and 40 alone or with the additional references. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims presently on file are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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